

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 225552
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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225552

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MASS, ASIG, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO: EA - MR. GLEYSTEN

FROM: EA/PHL - BENJAMIN A. FLECK

1. ROMULO INQUIRES ABOUT MILITARY ASSISTANCE
(CONFIDENTIAL)

PHILIPPINE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES BELISARIO CALLED ON ME ON
SEPTEMBER 20, ON TELEPHONED INSTRUCTIONS FROM FOREIGN
SECRETARY ROMULO, TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS BILL
NOW IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. ROMULO WANTED TO KNOW WHAT
THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTITUDE ;S TOWARD THE DOLS 3 MILLION CUT
IN GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR THE PHILIPPINES AND WHETHER WE ARE
WORKING ACTIVELY TO HAVE THE CUT RESTORED. BEFORE COMING
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TO SEE ME, BELISARIO HAD INFORMED ROMULO THAT CONGRESS-
WOMAN BURKE, WHO HAD INITIATED THE CUT BECAUSE OF THE
HERRERA CASE, WAS A MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND
WAS SURE TO OPPOSE ANY RESTORATION OF FUNDS. I TOLD
BELISARIO THAT IT WAS AS A RESULT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S
VIGOROUS EFFORTS, INCLUDING A GREAT DEAL OF PERSONAL

CONSULTATION BY DICK HOLBROOKE WITH KEY CONGRESSMEN, THAT THE CUTS WERE NO DEEPER. I ADDED THAT WE HAD BEEN WORKING AS VIGOROUSLY AS APPEARED TACTICALLY WISE FOR RESTORATION OF THE AMOUNTS CUT. I CONCLUDED THAT WE WOULD WELCOME RESTORATION OF THE FULL AMOUNTS BUT WERE NOT COUNTING ON IT.

2. INSPECTION BEGINS (UNCLASSIFIED)

HEADED BY SENIOR INSPECTOR BRANDON GROVE, A TEN-MAN INSPECTION TEAM HAS BEGUN ITS INSPECTION OF THE DIRECTORATE, EMBASSY MANILA, AND CONSULATE CEBU. THE INSPECTORS PLAN TO ARRIVE IN MANILA ABOUT OCTOBER 1 AND COMPLETE THE ENTIRE INSPECTION BY MID-DECEMBER.

3. DEBRIEFING OF RECENT MANILA VISITOR (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

STATE SENATOR ROGER SHARP OF NORTH CAROLINA, A DELEGATE TO THE WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE, CALLED ON ME SEPTEMBER 16 TO RECOUNT SOME OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN THE PHILIPPINES. SENATOR SHARP SUFFERED A BROKEN LEG IN THE PAL AIRCRAFT WHICH RECENTLY HAD A MISHAP IN HONOLULU EN ROUTE TO MANILA. AS A RESULT, HE WAS TREATED PARTICULARLY WELL DURING HIS STAY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPARENTLY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO SMALL CONFIDENTIAL

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AUDIENCES IN THE GREATER MANILA AREA AND TO MAKE A NUMBER OF VARIED CONTACTS. FROM HIS GOP CONTACTS HE CONVEYED THE MESSAGE THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS WOULD WELCOME AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES NEXT YEAR. FROM SOME OF HIS OTHER CONTACTS HE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT A MILITARY COUP TO OVERTHROW MARCOS IS LIKELY BUT NOT NECESSARILY IMMIMENT. HE BECAME FRIENDS WITH THE YOUNG FILIPINO WHO WAS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE KABATAANG BARANGAY (YOUTH ORGANIZATION) UNTIL SUPPLANTED BY IMEE MARCOS AND HAS APPARENTLY AGREED TO FINANCE THE YOUNG MAN'S EDUCATION.

4. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

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